CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER, 1961

Cumorah's Southern Messenger

Registered at the G P.O.
as a Newspaper.

"CUMORAH'S" SOUTHERN MESSENGER

DECEMBER, 1961

CONTENTS

Our Gift — *President O. Layton Alldredge* ... 315

Church News ... 316

Primary Page ... 317

Relief Society ... 318

What Relief Society means to me — *Sister Eileen Gibbs* ... 318

Merry Christmas from the Missionaries ... 320

My Conversion — *Jeffery N. Swarts* ... 329

Missionary Activity ... 330

From Our Files ... 331

Branch Reports ... 332

Editor: O. L. Alldredge

Associate Editor: K. C. Rueckert

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OUR GIFT

PRESIDENT
O. LAYTON ALLDREDGE

AT this time of the year, again we pause to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

It is a sad commentary on our times that we should go to such great length in the material preparations for this celebration without glimpsing the deeper meaning.

Christmas commemorates the birthday of the Saviour of the World, our Redeemer, the Prince of Peace. It is altogether fitting that we should exchange gifts between our loved ones on this occasion. They commemorate the gift of redemption which is offered us by our Saviour. It appears to me however, if we were to include with the circle of those to whom we give gifts at this time, the Person whose birthday we celebrate we would prepare for this Special Friend, our most choice gift.

What gift would we select to bestow on the One whose birthday we celebrate? Would He want sparkling diamonds set in shining gold? Would He want books properly autographed? Would He want clothing made from our most precious cloth?

Would not a more suitable gift be to present Him with a re-birth of His teachings as shown from our daily actions?

There are few problems in the world that could not be readily solved between men of good intent. What the world lacks at this Christmas time are the men of good intent. Some of these men control the destinies of nations. While affecting our lives they seem so remote that we in turn have little affect upon theirs.

Would we not however affect the whole world for good if at this Christmas time we resolved that we should not be the cause of further turmoil in the world? To do this, of course, we must begin with ourselves and somehow find peace. Then we should infect our homes with this spirit, then our loved ones and neighbours, and perhaps our community, and this spirit ever spreading may yet reform the world.

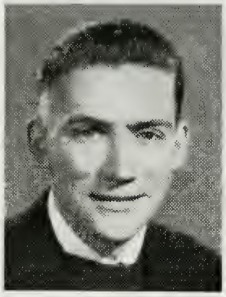
May we begin in fashioning our gift for the Prince of Peace by busying ourselves in sowing, within our own homes, the seeds of happiness which are watered and cultivated by thoughts of kindness. When we have made of our own homes an outpost of heaven we should then start to overhaul our neighbourhood and so aid our Lord in His prayer to His Heavenly Father that "His Kingdom may come on earth as it is in Heaven."

So badly is this employment needed and so formidable is the task that it will give full employment and take the best resources of even the most industrious and wise of us.

Still is true, "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God."

Let each one of us in our own homes, prepare the gift. Let it begin with the first unkind word we are tempted to say—left unspoken.

Church News



ELDER THOMAS B. SMITH

New 2nd Counsellor

On November 20 Elder Thomas B. Smith was appointed and set apart as the new second counsellor in the mission presidency of the South African Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. President Smith is an outstanding missionary and is one of those rare missionaries who has shown inspired leadership from the very beginning of his mission. He has previously been a travelling Elder of the West Rand Missionary District. President Smith is a man who has the love and respect of all the missionaries and will prove to be one of the great names in the history of the mission. President Smith replaces President Newton who was released after filling an honourable mission and who now resides in Canada.

Three New Stakes

During the week of 15 November two new stakes were organised in Europe—the Stuttgart from the South German Mission, and the Swiss from the Swiss Mission. The new stakes were organised by President Henry D. Moyle. He was assisted by President Alvin R. Dyer of the European Mission in the Stuttgart unit formation and President Blythe M. Gardner of the South German Mission.

The 342nd stake in the Church, the third in Germany, the Hamburg Stake, was created on the 12 November from the North German Mission. President Henry D. Moyle of the First Presidency officiated at the organization of the new unit, assisted by President Alvin R. Dyer of the European Mission, President Nathan Eldon Tanner of the West European Mission and President Howard C. Maycock of the North German Mission.

Electronics in Genealogy

Having 22,000,000 cards to keep in order the Genealogical Association has been on the lookout for a new and more accurate method, according to Junius M. Jackson, president of the genealogical archives. Early next year a new type of family group sheet will be introduced wherein all information will be assembled into a language that the computor can utilize and process. For instance, this machine can do in a fraction of a second what a clerk would take several hours to perform. Officials disclose that as many as 20,000 family group sheets can be compacted on one reel of magnetic tape which is one half inch wide and 2,400 feet long. The 165,000,000 characters contained therein can be read by the computer in approximately five minutes.

"The Hearts of the Children"

Genealogy is a work of love, devotion and reward. This is the message of the informative motion picture, "The Hearts of the Children," now in circulation among wards and stakes of the Church. The film was made by the Brigham Young University Motion Picture Department for the Genealogical Association of the Church. It tells the story of some of the ancestors of the Prophet Joseph Smith and their struggle for religious freedom long before the Gospel was restored to earth.

PRIMARY PAGE

Dear Primary Friends,

I'm at Primary and it's nearly time for the bell to go for "wash hands" but I slipped in early and washed mine so I could write to you.

We all have to wash our hands before Primary because our teacher says she does not like to shake sticky or grubby hands because nice clean ones feel more loving and friendly.

While we wash our hands and get into line, the teachers have their Prayer Meeting. Theres no one to look after us but we still have to keep very quiet, don't worry, because if we don't, we have to miss our sweet after Primary!

My teacher just buys "boilings" and puts them all in a tin (with a pretty cover) and we just have to put our hands in, (she holds the tin high) and take what we get, but if we have been noisy we don't get any, and that's terrible.

My teacher just says "**I** don't know who made all that noise but **you** do, so when the tin comes your way just say "No, thank you" or slip away will you, and next time, **remember** to be reverent!"

Once my teacher was so cross with us that nobody got any sweets at all!

Well, after we have washed our hands and are all in line, my teacher shakes hands with each of us—and she makes sure that we **hold** her hand properly and pay attention to her and she says something to each of us like "My! but that's a pretty dress' or "Hello, how are you today?" or "Oh, but your hand **does** feel nice and clean!"

Then we each drop our cent in a special bottle which has some picture about the day's lesson on it, and a hole to push our cents through, and go to our places.

My teacher has two lists of names and each week a different child gets a chance to say the prayer or to be Chorister and my teacher helps us to move our arms in the right way for each song.

Our standard this year is "We will try to help each other to be reverent on Sundays and at Primary," and each week she asks us what we think, like "**How** do you think we can help each other to be reverent?" and "Who was Joseph Smith"—very few of us knew!—and what did he **mean** when he said that much laughter is sin?"—and we learned about pretty happy laughter and rude, loud and unkind laughter.

Teacher also asks us **how** our eyes, hands, feet, tongues and so on can help us to be reverent,—and all sorts of questions.

The other day she asked us **what could** be done about the children who misbehave at Church, even after **all** the lessons we've learned about reverence, I was one of the ones who had been noisy and I suggested that the children who just **can't** be quiet at Church should have to go without their sweet at Primary!—No one has had to yet!

Even when we separate for classes we have to do it like "Quiet fairies and elephants, not noisy ones."

This year my teacher rearranged the Radar Pilot lessons, so that we started in the first term with the lesson about where "Jesus learns of His mission in the Council of Heaven," and we will finish off with "The Resurrection" and she has combined quite a lot of lessons so that we don't miss any of the sequence because in America they have about ten more Primary Meetings a year than we do. Also we are in recess at Easter and Christmas so those lessons are better fitted in their right turns.

In our classes we each have a paper with our names on, and the dates and so on, and we each stick two stars on, one for "Present" and one for "Cent" each week, and then at the end of term we can take the papers home.

Sometimes in roll-call our Teacher **does** make us laugh! she may say

(Continued on page 339)

RELIEF SOCIETY

Comparative Report for October

THE TOP THREE
1st LUANSHYA BRANCH 100%
2nd COPPERBELT AND SPRINGS BRANCHES 92%
3rd DURBAN BRANCH 82%

	Enrolled	Average Attendance	Percentage Attendance	Sick Visits	Visiting teacher visits
Bellville	—	—	—	—	—
Bloemfontein ...	10	7	70%	19	5
Bulawayo	21	8	38%	—	—
Copperbelt	13	12	92%	—	—
Durban	28	23	82%	14	9
East London	9	6	67%	3	—
East Rand	19	8	42%	1	37
Gwelo	—	—	—	—	—
Krugersdorp	22	13	59%	6	21
Luanshya	5	5	100%	3	4
Mowbray	34	22	64%	13	65
Pietermaritzburg	8	6	75%	—	—
Port Elizabeth ...	26	10	38%	—	—
Pretoria	31	14	46%	12	—
Primrose	16	6	38%	—	—
Ramah	41	31	75%	2	67
Salisbury	17	13	77%	6	8
Springs	12	11	92%	—	11
Welkom	—	—	—	—	—
Vereeniging	—	—	—	—	—

"What Relief Society Means To Me"

I would like you to form a mental picture in your minds of approximately 30 women seated together in one room, and in your hearts I would like you to capture the feeling of love, fellowship and trust. Upon entering this room, coming out of a somewhat cold, unfriendly and lethargic world one stops—breathless and slightly hesitant—as this almost forgotten impact of belonging and being loved hits you square in the middle, the atmosphere of the Relief Society.

Do you remember the feeling of love and protectiveness you had at your Mother's knee? Well, this same feeling I had at the very first Relief Society meeting I attended three months ago when I stepped into that room a slightly bewildered and very new member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

In my few months as a member of this fine auxillary of the Church I have learned a lot of things, but surprisingly enough I have learned a lot of things about women. They were not all uncontrollably selfish, domineering and vindictive. And when meeting together they do not have what is commonly called a "hen's party" which is generally a lot of vindictive and malicious scandal to the detriment of some poor unfortunate

and probably most undeserving soul. They do not spend their meetings in idle chatter . . . at least not the Latter Day Saint ladies.

This is an organisation run by the women of the Church not because it gives them the opportunity of getting away from their husbands one evening a week but because it is one of the ways of serving our Father in Heaven and also our fellowmen. It is a method of enriching our minds but most important of all it is a way of strengthening our Testimonies.

To begin to tell you what Relief Society means to me I must go back a few years to a conversation I overheard between two members of the stronger sex; they were discussing the merits of a woman. Although their ideas differed slightly on some points their general views were the same. "As long as she was passably goodlooking, could cook and was a good Mother" these gentlemen were of the opinion that women were very much an afterthought of our heavenly Father just so that man could be comfortable during his stay on earth. They did not think that a woman should have much intellect and certainly no ambition. Well after hearing that conversation I often wished that I had ben born a man.

But ideas have changed radically now. In these past months I have learnt that to be an efficient housewife is not enough—womanhood is more than that—we are here to live our lives so that we can inspire those around us to better and greater things. To quote President David O. McKay "Home is where the great men and women of tomorrow are moulded, and home revolves around the Mother."

I have gained a completely new and startling different set of values, most of which took seed at Relief Society meetings.

I look forward to Thursday evenings because I know that I will return home just that little bit better every time.

Our lessons which include theology, social science literature and caring for the sick in the home are all aimed at furthering our progress while here on earth and making us more eligible for the celestial kingdom.

Theology Lesson, has helped and inspired me to study more of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The **Literature Lesson** has developed my interest in a subject I never knew I cared for.

Caring for the sick in the home has certainly increased my knowledge of nursing.

In the Social Science Class I have heard and read lessons such as emotional and religious maturity, values, trust, inner satisfaction and the working philosophy of life which have taught me that I must take my place as a responsible member of human society and that with the help of God our Father do all in my power, to understand, help and love others and to live with eternal progression in mind.

As a new member of the Relief Society I would like to thank every member of this Organisation here at Ramah for the help that they, knowingly or unknowingly, have given me in adjusting my life to a Latter Day Saint pattern. By their example I have directed my own little daily affairs, by their faith has my own faith increased. I have a testimony of the Gospel that none shall ever take from me.

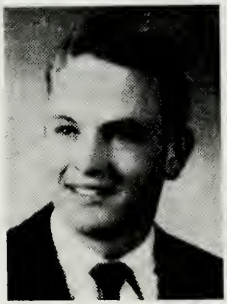
I know that God lives and that Jesus Christ is the only begotten son of God. I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God and that the Church of Jesus Christ is the only true Church. I am proud to be a member of it.

I hope that I may be a loving, faithful and humble servant of God and my sincere prayer is for Relief Society all over the world. May her Presidents and Councillors preside over us with love and understanding, and may our heavenly Father bestow upon them his righteous blessings that they may all reach the celestial kingdom and dwell in happiness unto eternity.

For to me Relief Society is a shoulder to cry on, a gang to laugh with, a group to work with, and a selection of very choice people to love.

SISTER EILEEN GIBBS

Merry Christmas from the Missionaries



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Manti, Utah

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Layton, Utah

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Springville, Utah

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Adelaide, Australia

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San Jose, California

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Roosevelt, Utah

ELDER RICHARD BITTER
Kaysville, Utah

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Porterville, California

ELDER BRET J. BODILY
Preston, Idaho

ELDER GARY L. BOETES
San Leandro, California

SISTER MYRNA D. BUSH
North Long Beach, California

ELDER CLIFFORD D. BYWATER
Declo, Idaho

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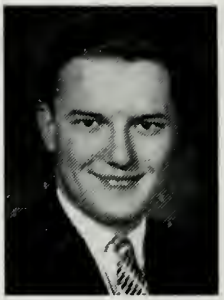
Greenside Ext.
Johannesburg.

ELDER DUANE L. CHILD
Clearfield, Utah



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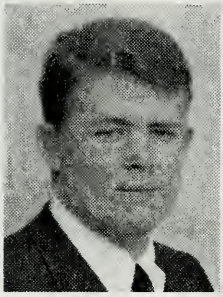
Salt Lake City, Utah



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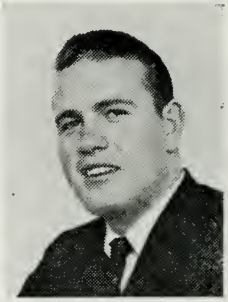
ELDER LOUIS J. CLEMENTS
Rexburg, Idaho



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Raymond, Alberta, Canada

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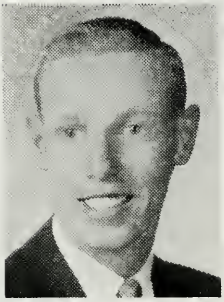
Parkview, Johannesburg



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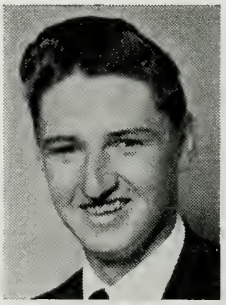
Centerville, Utah



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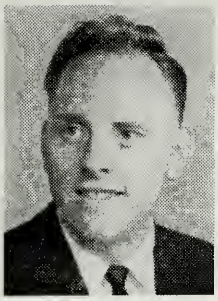

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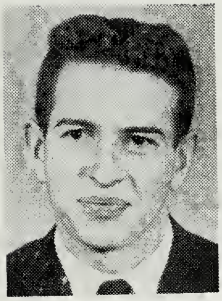

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Murray, Utah

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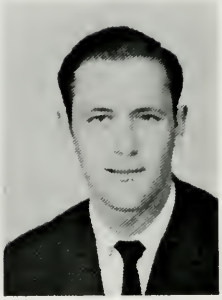

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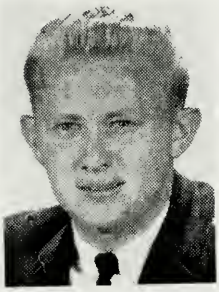
Kamas, Utah



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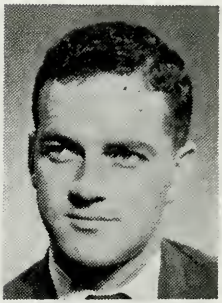

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Springs, Transvaal

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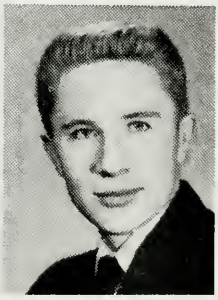

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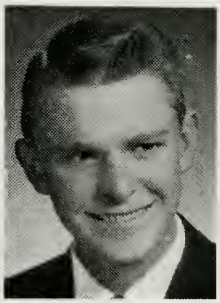

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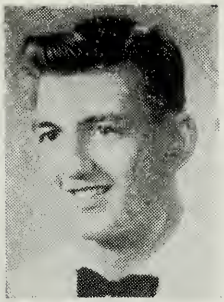
Spanish Fork, Utah



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Claremont, Cape

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Ogden, Utah

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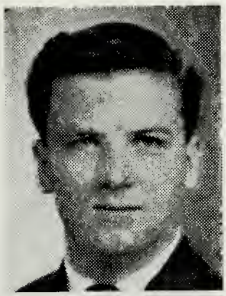

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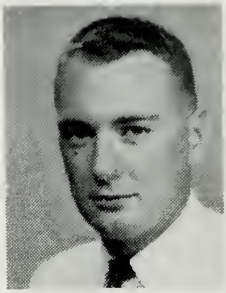

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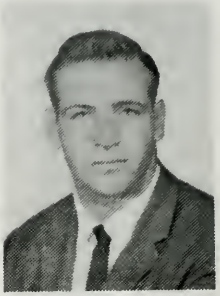

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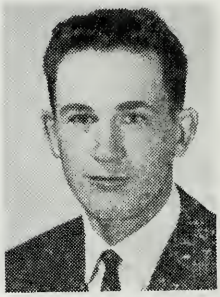

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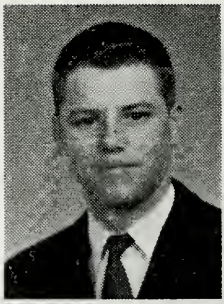

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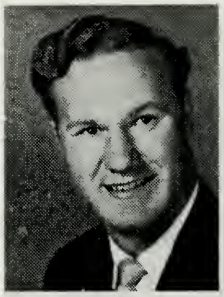

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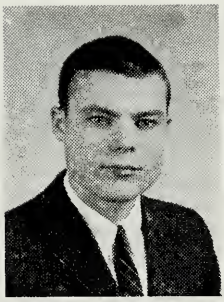
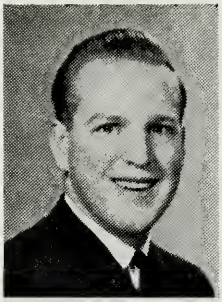
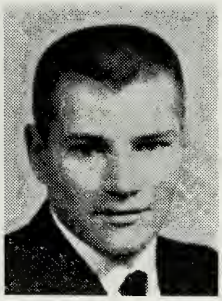


ELDER GERALD G. SMITH
Salt Lake City, Utah

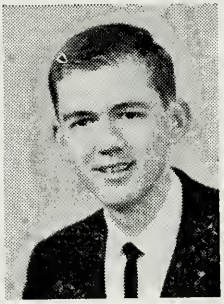


ELDER THERAL F. SMITH
Tremonton, Utah

ELDER THOMAS B. SMITH
Corvallis, Oregon



ELDER N. LeROY STANKO
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada



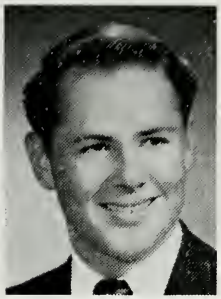
ELDER GARY TATE
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

ELDER M. LaVERN TAYLOR
Idaho Falls, Idaho

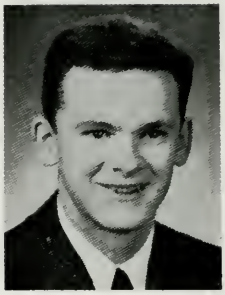
ELDER RAY S. THOMPSON
Salt Lake City, Utah

ELDER KAY L. TISCHNER
Santaquin, Utah

ELDER ROBERT W. WALLIN
Park City, Utah



ELDER GLEN J. WALTMAN
Nampa, Idaho



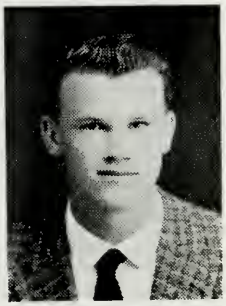
ELDER RUSSELL M. WARREN
Salt Lake City, Utah

ELDER BRENT C. WHITE
Salt Lake City, Utah

ELDER JAMES C. WILLDEN
Salt Lake City, Utah

ELDER DALE G. WILDER
El Monte, California

ELDER WILLIAM W. WINDER
Vernal, Utah



ELDER BRUCE B. WINTERS
Afton, Wyoming

SISTER BONNIE J. WOODALL
Salt Lake City, Utah

My Conversion

MY brothers, sisters and friends this is a great privilege for me to rewrite this for all to read and to know that what I'm writing now is true and nothing but the truth.

Before I became a "Latter-Day Saint," I belonged to the "Anglican Church." Not that I was a very ardent churchgoer, I would rather lay in bed on a Sunday morning and read the Sunday papers and not even bother to think of going to church.

You see my brothers and sisters I was very wild and loose in those days. As long as I could go out with the boys and do what they did, I was contented. Whenever I got home I was moody and quarrelsome with my family but all the time I knew deep inside of me that there was something lacking.

I had already heard about the 'Mormons" so one day I decided to phone the Mission Home. A very sweet voice answered. I asked this sweet voice if it will be possible to send some missionaries out to my place, and at the same time also to my friends' place. The arrangements were made for the following night. Now some people would ask me, but what made you phone for the "Mormon Missionaries," and not to your own church? Well, my brothers and sisters, I can just tell you that I don't think I had anything to do with it. It was a power far stronger than myself that made the decision for me.

The night the missionaries arrived at my place I was very much taken to them. They had such bright and open faces. They then proceeded to give me my first lesson of the restored gospel of God. Now my brothers and sisters while they were giving me the lesson I felt something or should I say some power was present. While listening to them I could not help but believe in the truthfulness of the gospel. The necessity of being baptised by immersion for the remission of sins, by the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, that a church must have twelve living Apostles all seemed apparent to me. After the first lesson I said to my mother, "Mom, this is the church for me." As you all know some converts take up to six months before they decide that they believe in the restored gospel of God and then get baptised, but it was not so with me, my brothers and sisters, because I already told you that I had that feeling inside of me that decided me to convert myself and follow the words of wisdom. I know that it must have been the Holy Ghost that was inside of me and that made me decide. My brothers and sisters, the Elders came to my place a week before I got baptised, which was on the second of this month, and I may also state, with all truthfulness, that the Elders taught me more about the gospel of God and the truthfulness thereof in one week than any other church could teach me in a lifetime. I can tell you this much, God has given me new eyes to see with. The world and life in general is much different to me now. Now I see all the good things which our Creator has given us. I know what it is like to follow the path of light, and not to have any worries that I'll ever have to go back to tha dark and dreary path. Because I know that God has given me the chance in life that I needed. I'll never look back but never. Because my brothers and sisters I know now with all surety and without a shadow of a doubt that God lives, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. That the Gospel has been restored to this earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith by the gift and power or God, and that it will never again be taken from the face of this earth, by nobody or no one.

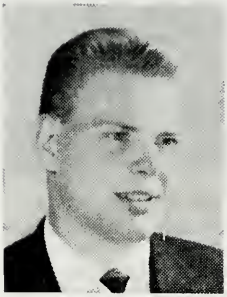
I say this humbly in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

JEFFERY N. SWARTS

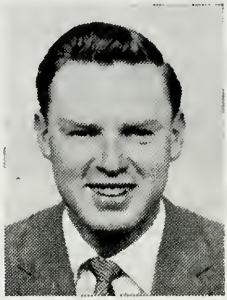
P.S. My humblest thanks to Elders Glen J. Waltman and Jerald Maughan for helping me through my conversion. God bless them in their great work.

Missionary Activities

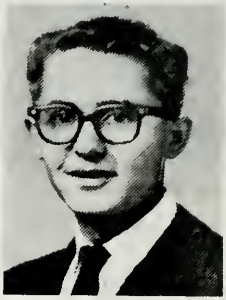
RELEASES



ELDER ARLEN MORGAN SMITH — from Champion, Alberta, Canada—released November 28th, 1961 — laboured in Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Welkom, East London. Served as Supervising Elder of Welkom District.



ELDER DON S. NELSON — from St. George, Utah — released November 28th, 1961. Laboured in Johannesburg and Welkom, East Rand.



ELDER SHERID HOWARD PETERSON—from Logan Utah—released November 28th, 1961. Laboured in Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth, Vereeniging, Mission Office and Durban. Served as Mission Secretary.

APPOINTMENTS

ELDER THOMAS B. SMITH—2nd Counselor Mission Presidency November 20th, 1961.
ELDER BARRY PARKINSON—Travelling Elder November 25th, 1961.
ELDER GLEN WALTMAN—Supervising Elder Port Elizabeth November 25th, 1961.
ELDER DAVID NORTON—Supervising Elder West Rand November 25th, 1961.
ELDER DAVIS KNIGHT—Supervising Elder Pretoria November 25th, 1961.

ARRIVALS

ELER THOMAS BARR OLDROYD—from Salt Lake City Utah, arrived November 23rd, 1961 assigned to labour in Brakpan.
ELDER BRYANT ROBINSON ROBB—from Mancas, Colorado, arrived November 23rd, 1961 assigned to labour in Johannesburg.
ELDER WILLIAM WALLACE WINDER Jr.—from Vernal, Utah, arrived November 23rd, 1961 assigned to labour in Krugersdorp.
ELDER MARVIN REESE JONES—from Brigham City, Utah, arrived November 15th, 1961 assigned to labour in Port Elizabeth.

TRANSFERS

ELDER DALE WILDER—from Johannesburg to Salisbury November 25th, 1961.
ELDER THERAL SMITH—from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg November 25th, 1961.
ELDER DAVID NORTON—from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg November 25th, 1961.
ELDER JAMES WILLDEN—from Cape Town to Johannesburg November 25th, 1961.
ELDER BRENT WHITE—from Salisbury to Johannesburg November 25th, 1961.
ELDER VERNON KNIGHT—from Pretoria to Vereeniging November 25th, 1961.
ELDER JAMES CLAWSON—from Durban to Johannesburg November 25th, 1961.
ELDER DAVIS KNIGHT—from Witbank to Pretoria November 25th, 1961.
ELDER VERL JONES—from Krugersdorp to Pretoria November 25th, 1961.
ELDER RONALD BARLOW—from Johannesburg to East London November 25th, 1961.
ELDER CHARLES SCOTT—from Johannesburg to Durban November 25th, 1961.
ELDER KARL ARMSTRONG—from Vereeniging to Durban November 25th, 1961.
ELDER DUANE CHILD—from Johannesburg to Pietermaritzburg November 25th, 1961.
ELDER JERALD MAUGHAN—from Johannesburg to Pietermaritzburg November 25th, 1961.
ELDER GLEN WALTMAN—from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth November 25th, 1961.
ELDER RAY S. THOMPSON—from Springs to Port Elizabeth November 25th, 1961.
ELDER RICHARD BITTER—from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town November 25th, 1961.
ELDER THOMAS SMITH—from Johannesburg to Mission Office November 25th, 1961.
ELDER BARRY PARKINSON—from Pretoria to Mission Office November 25th, 1961.
ELDER KENT OLSON—from Johannesburg to Copperbelt December 2nd, 1961.
ELDER KRAIG BECKSTRAND—from Copperbelt to Johannesburg December 2nd, 1961.

FROM OUR FILES

Baptism

BULAWAYO
BUDD, Theresa

EAST LONDON
MEGGERSEE, Desree Maureen

EAST RAND
MINNIE, Anna Catherina Magrietha
MINNIE, Gerhardus
ROSE, Hermann Heinrich Adolf

KRUGERSDORP
COETZEE, Bradley Louis
DELPORT, Jan Adriaan
GREER, Ann Doris

MOWBRAY
KOTZE, Linda Denise
LE ROUX, Kerrilyn Lucy

PRETORIA
RAUBENHEIMER, Denis
TAYLOR, Joseph James

PRIMROSE
DENT, Clarence Avondal
DENT, Everlyn Ann
DE WET, Johannes Christiaan
DE WET, Ann Kathren
DE WET, Dawn Linda
LINDSAY, Velvet Barbara
MOTLEY, Rhoda Veronica
NICOL, Joan Joyce
NICOL, Edna Joyce
ROBERTS, Douglas Franklyn

RAMAH
BRUMMER, Johanna Magdalena
WILSON, Arthur Gordon
WILSON, Sheila Ann

SALISBURY
FISHER, Rosemary Ann
LE ROUX, Yvonne Patricia

SPRINGS
MACMILLAN, Clive Rodney
M'CRYSTAL, Trevor Hilton
M'CRYSTAL, Valda Naureen

Births

LIEBENBERG, Roelof, born August 26th 1961 at Krugersdorp, Tvl., Father: Roelof Liebenberg. Mother: Ruth Maguerita Finch.

TYLER, Collen, born August 8th 1961 at Springs, Tvl. Father: Lionel Royston Tyler. Mother: Genevieve Futter.

FARQHARSON, Graham Craig, born June 7th 1961 at Welkom, O.F.S. Father: George Douglas Farqharson. Mother: Ethel Dawn Shelley.

Deaths

HEYNE, Lillian Thora, died 21st July, 1961 in Cape Town.

NEWTON, Elizabeth, died 15th September, 1961 in Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.

Marriages

MILNE, Jeanette Magdalene, married 7th October to Pieter Johannes Blignaut, Port Elizabeth.

Blessings

BULAWAYO
PROVINCH, Kathleen Charlotte

COPPERBELT
LAWRENCE, James Kilpatrick
DU PLESSIS, Jacques Christiaan
GREER, Barbara
KRUGER, Richard Bradfield

MOWBRAY
WOODS, Hilary Alison Rosemarie
WOODS, David Anthony

PIETERMARITZBURG
PRINSLOO, Catherina Susanna Petronella
PRINSLOO, Andrew Edward

PRETORIA
CLOETE, Dorathea Johanna

PRIMROSE
DE WET, Robin Corrie
DE WET, Barry Terrance
MOTLEY, Yolonde Aletta
OTTO, Mark
SANDOW, Ernalene

RAMAH
BRUMMER, Eugene
DE JONGH, Dennis Ronald
PARTRIDGE, Dawn Caroline
PARTRIDGE, Heather Catherine
PARTRIDGE, Arthur Cornell
ROBERTS, Andrew Edward
SLABBERT, Jacobus Nicolaas
SLABBERT, Martin Jacobus
SLABBERT, Eben
SLABBERT, Elmarie
SLABBERT, Andre
SLABBERT, Rene
SLABBERT, Elizabeth Susanna
SMITH, Robert Gordon
SMITH, Harold James
WILSON, Jennifer Ann

SPRINGS
PIENAAR, Deon William

(Continued on page 339)

BRANCH REPORTS

BLOEMFONTEIN

Mona Spear

HI Brothers and Sisters everywhere. We hope you are all keeping fit and well. The branch members are all well except for little Allan Spear who has been beset by an attack of measles. He is on the road to recovery and we hope soon to see him at meetings; we miss you Allan. Peter Spear was safely delivered through the ordeal of an appendectomy. He is well again and almost as "naughty" as ever, a good sign we are told.

We enjoyed the presence of President and Sister Alldredge and President Powrie during the month at our conference. President Alldredge certainly had us on our toes. A few of us escaped his gaze and did not have to speak spontaneously—I almost said unprepared. It has been said by one of the leaders of the Church that we should always be prepared. I think I can say our members were prepared, and all the talks were very well given and enjoyed by the congregation. All three of our visitors spoke to us and gave us words of encouragement.

We also had as visitors during the month Brother and Sister Storey from Rhodesia. Unfortunately they arrived on the day of our Conference and missed the second session which was held in the afternoon and not in the evening. It was nice seeing these folk again.

In conclusion it is a pleasure to wish all the members of the Branches the Lord's choicest blessings for the coming festive season, a Happy Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. May your branches grow from strength to strength and your testimonies be increased. We send our love to all members everywhere.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

God bless our little home to-day and all our family—the ones that gather round the hearth, and those across the sea—And some of us have gone away—and drifted far apart—but Christmas ties the cord of friendship close round the heart . . . May all our fancied grievances be banished from the mind—and may we greet each other with a wish that's good and kind—May nothing false creep in to spoil the perfect harmony—and may we speak sweet words of love and peace and sympathy.

Patience Strong

COPPERBELT

Joan Clarke

ON Sunday September 17th Brother Norman Calteaux was advanced to the office of a Priest in the Aaronic Priesthood.

Our October Officers' and Teachers' Meeting was held on the 21st at the home of Brother and Sister Fourie of Luanshya. After the meeting the sum of £5 6. 0. was raised from the auction of Box Suppers and sale of cakes, this amount being added to our building fund which is growing steadily. Everyone enjoyed their supper although the ladies were disappointed that they had to eat from their own boxes; they too would have enjoyed a surprise supper. Attendances at Sacrament and Sunday School Meetings have increased slightly and we were especially pleased to have with us on the 8th, members of the Luanshya Branch. On this occasion we enjoyed hearing from President Munch of the Luanshya Branch. These members will be meeting with us every second Sunday in the month, and we look forward to their future visits and to hearing from them.

DURBAN

William L. Clark

AS predicted in the last report, the Durban Branch has awoken to the fact that the new Branch Presidency is ambitious, active and efficient. The reorganisation of auxiliaries was smooth and efficiently carried out. A greater number of people have now been incorporated into taking active part in the various auxiliaries and there is now a "sense of belonging."

The present aim of the Branch Presidency is to reactivate those members who, since their baptisms, have found the attractions of those "supposedly delightful inhalants" and that "good old uplifter that lets us down," greater than the attraction of attending Branch activities and meetings.

Branch Teaching has been reorganised and planned so as to include regular visits to all, and social gatherings are being encouraged. An Integration Committee has been established in liaison with the Missionaries with the aim of keeping new members securely within the fold. It is felt that many new members are lost in the "rush of activity" (especially now) and as a result, feel out of place. The committee will take charge of, and guide these new members, until such time as they have found their feet. The Committee is under the chairmanship of Brother Michael Blight.

Sunday School was responsible for the organisation of fund-raising activities this month, and a very good job they made of it too. A delightful "Globe Trot (around the world dinner) was the fore-runner to two excellent dances, a film-show and a cake-sale.

Congratulations to Duane and Merril Jakins on the "production" of a bouncing baby boy—Brent Ritchie. At the moment, Dad's all proud smiles but his turn at having to stay up all night and nurse baby has still to come. Good luck—you'll need it!

The Durban Branch regrets the loss of Elders Clawson and Peterson but wish them every success in their various paths. We also wish to welcome Elders C. Scott and K. Armstrong. May they enjoy success equal to that of their companions.

Trusting you and your family are well.

Every member of the church of Christ having children is to bring them unto the elders before the church, who are to lay their hands upon them in the name of Jesus Christ, and bless them in his name.

(D. & C. 20:70)

EAST LONDON

Rita Corrigan

THE year is rushing to a close all too rapidly and it is with a start we realise that Christmas is just around the corner. By the time this appears in print the New Year will be heralded in but the members at East London would like to let their many friends in the Church know that we have remembered them this Christmastide and wish them all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Brother Duncan of Durban paid a visit to East London at the end of October and gave a very inspiring talk on why he was a Mormon. His fine testimony of the Gospel strengthened those of the members present and must surely have given assurance to the investigators.

We were happy to have Sisters Sparg and Pratt from the Transkei with us for evening service on the 12th November. Some of the Saints gathered at the Nahoon River mouth to witness the baptism of two new members, Sisters Lloyd and Sheppard, by Elders Smith and Bellon. Later in the morning, before sunday school, these two Sisters were confirmed and it is with joy that we welcome them into the fold and pray that they will remain steadfast members, deriving much joy and happiness hrough the Gospel and their association with the Saints.

Sister Lorraine Jubber has had an operation and is making good progress and hopes to be out of hospital soon. It is only a month ago that her youngest son, little Kennie, was rushed off to hospital for an emergency appendectomy, but the youngster is fit once more and full of life. Sister Landmen has also been in hospital, receiving treatment and we sincerely hope all will be well with her.

We miss Sister D. Booysen who was gone for a holiday to her daughter, Sister F. Matthew in Durban. We hope the change and rest will be of benefit to her and that she will return to her family here and her assignments with renewed energy. In the meantime Sister Siebert is keeping the home fires burning.

The Relief sisters have been busy organising fund raising functions. On 28th October a successful cake sale was held in the city and on the following Saturday Sister Corrigan had a sale at her home of cake, sweets and various articles made by the Relief Society sisters. This proved very successful and worth the efforts. The primary children organised a Penny Party of games for the neighbourhood children that same morning and were able to contribute a small amount towards building funds. On Saturday evening 11th November, a happy gettogether was held at the home of Sister Olsen. This took the form of a boerewors supper and dance and games evening. An overall charge was made, adding to Relief Society funds.

EAST RAND

Shirley Evans

We were very happy to welcome into our midst Brother and Sister Valentine Ellis and their lovely baby son John, also Sister Johanna Ellis and Sister Aleta Frily and two children.

Congratulations to Brother and Sister Herman Rose who were married recently.

Although we had a quiet October month we are looking forward to a full November and December.

Wherefore, they cannot sin, for power is not given unto Satan to tempt little children, until they begin to become accountable before me.

(D. & C. 29:47)

KRUGERSDORP

Ellen Kotze

HELLO everybody; we hope you are all well. It gives me great pleasure to report the Baptism of Mr. Loelof Liebenberg Delport (Brother) in our Branch during this month. Brother Jan van Brandwijk has been ordained an Elder. Quite a few families have moved away but the Krugers are a bit unsettled so we cannot say where they are staying. The Therons have moved to Bechuanaland and the Shaws have moved to Carletonville. We are sorry to lose them but we wish them every happiness in their new respective Branches.

We had a variety concert on the 10th which was a great success. There was an enormous crowd and everybody enjoyed themselves. The artists were of a high standard. Sis. Christine du Plessis's singing was very well put over. We had Sid Wolberg to entertain us and she kept us in fits of laughter the whole night. The one act play produced by our local members was enjoyed very much.

From Carletonville we hear that Elders Rueckert and Lowry came out to the Sacrament Meeting of the 8th October. They also had a M.I.A. Variety Concert which was also very successful.

Well Christmas is just around the corner and I suppose everybody is in full swing for their Christmas Parties and Picnics. Cheerio and tons of love from the members of the Krugersdorp Branch. May God bless you all.

PRETORIA

Eileen van Staden

A WARM and sincere welcome to Sister Alison Baxter, a missionary who comes from Australia. She is Sister Scheckle's new companion. Congratulations to Brother and Sister Maritz on the birth of their first child, a baby daughter.

On 7th October a "Sit down Dinner' in the Cecil Hall, Sunnyside was held to raise building funds. The food was excellent and plentiful. Thanks to the keen workers in the kitchens.

Once again a very fine and edifying programme by the youth of the M.I.A. was held at Sacrament Meeting, Sunday October 8th. There was a very good turnout.

Another cake sale was held Saturday 14th October. It proved a success — swelling our combined branch funds considerably. At this time we extend our condolences to the family, relatives and friends of the late Brother Eric Jakins of the Bellville Branch, Cape.

It was with joy we heard the good news of the engagement of Brother Ronald Kunitz to Sister Patricia Harvey. Wedding bells will be ringing on 9th December 1961 at Ramah, when these two wonderful people will be married.

For the second time the branch hired a municipal bus to transport members to Ramah to attend the Transvaal District Conference which was held on 22nd October. In spite of the great heat all thoroughly enjoyed the rich spiritual blessings and beautiful music and singing the day brought forth to all who attended.

Although the weather was wet, chilly and windy an exceptionally good crowd came out to the M.I.A. Halloween Night. Witches, cats and broomsticks and jack-o-lanterns decorated the walls. Plenty of exciting games were played. Licorice sticks and jelly beans were the prizes for the winning teams. Later biscuits and cool drinks were served.

Welcome to the new convert Brother Raubenheimer, and young Brother Miesner who was blessed.

We are very happy that Brother Henry Pittendreigh, 2nd councillor in

the Branch Presidency has been advanced to the Melchizedek Priesthood. May he be blessed in all his endeavours.

We pray for the recovery and return from hospital of Brother France Brotherton, who underwent two operations on his right leg. Sister Aletta Richards was rushed to hospital from her work and underwent a minor operation. Sister Minnie Hutton's operation to her throat was very successful. We trust that old Sister Cruickshanks' intended operation will also be successful.

We close with very good news. We were all thrilled and happy on Sunday morning 5th November to see baby Quentin Taljaard out of hospital after a three months' stay as a result of a lung operation. May he be blessed with health, strength and joy.

PORT ELIZABETH

Madge McHugh

THE traditional halloween party was held at the Chapel and as usual the spooks paid a visit, including Dracula and his bride who spent their time in one of the classrooms and invited all to come and visit them. We had two other visitors in the other classrooms. One spooky member had been given a long tongue and the other decided to shoot himself. After the horrors had disappeared the members joined in playing games after which refreshments were served. We were happy to have Brother and Sister Storey from Rhodesia attend with their two children. Regret it was only a fleeting visit.

The P.E. Branch wish all members and missionaries everywhere a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

RAMAH

Miriam Nicholls

THIS has been a most lovely and inspiring month for us. President Powrie and his two counsellors visited Ramah. President Powrie called a meeting of the leaders of the branch and told us that we are urged to tithe and pay fast and building fees willingly rather than sell cakes or goods to non-saints in the street to collect funds. He said we are a covenant people and therefore we must also be proud and happy and diligent tithers. He said the Lord was preparing us to live the Law of Consecration which is that **everything** we won is not ours really but the Lord's and he has a right to it, to use it for the poorer saints. "One day we may become unselfish enough to live this law" said President Powrie.

The conference was wonderful at which President Powrie presided. Some members, Elders and lady missionaries gave inspiring talks. President Alldredge made a wonderful speech, and was very amusing in parts and very inspiring too. Sister Alldredge spoke wonderfully to us with great understanding and kindness. The singing throughout was delightful, particularly the Cantata "The King of Glory" which was rendered in the evening and ended this lovely conference. Brother Johann Brummer was the chorister and he and the choir must be complimented on their fine performance. As usual our Relief Society very ably catered for the conference at the very nominal fee of 2/- per head for a really delightful cold lunch. They also catered for 50 Elders for two lunches without cost. Sister Ivy Clark, our Relief Society President, said everything was donated. I think the sisters must be commended for their generosity and hard work in serving these very fine lunches to the elders. They are a self-supporting auxiliary and raise more money than any other in the branch.

President Powrie has been promoted to the position of 1st councillor in the mission presidency. Brother Lionel Bibb has taken his former position as district president. We wish to congratulate these two fine people and wish them much joy in their new offices. We also congratulate all members who have been advanced in the Priesthood or who have just received advancement recently.

We wish all newly baptized members a great welcome and hope they find happiness in the gospel and in meeting with the saints. We urge them to attend meetings regularly and be active and to introduce themselves to the older members personally, who will love to know them. So dear new Brothers and Sisters don't be shy with the older members.

The Aaronic priesthood still hold their monthly film show to help raise funds to keep a missionary in the field but I regret to say they are very poorly attended.

We should like to wish Brother and Sister Gerard Meyer and family a wonderful vacation. Brother "Gerry' works tremendously hard as branch clerk and I feel that most of us do not realize just how hard our fine brothers labour for us. Brother Gerry is so genial about it all too. His broad grin and happy personality are quite contagious and we are missing these qualities of his at Ramah now that he is absent. Gerry certainly deserves a rest and we hope he makes the very best of his opportunity.

The M.I.A. held a Hobo party in place of the usual Halloween party. Brother and Sister Van Graan proved to be the best Hobos of the evening and won the prize for it.

We are sorry that Sister Forenzi is back in hospital again and pray the Lord will heal her soon. Let us all pray for her and also for our dear Sister Van Niekerk who suffers so bravely. Sister Willie Brummer also needs prayers for recovery.

We send our greetings and blessings to all saints everywhere. May your happiness shine forth to cheer and bless others wherever you may travel.

SALISBURY

Jean Schonnberg

WITH the onset of early rains Salisbury presents an unusually fresh and lovely face to complement the last of the jacarandas and the first of the flamboyants—in themselves eye-catching at this season of the year.

Within the Branch one and all have been actively employed. Under the auspices of the Sunday School a really delightful film evening was held at the home of Brother and Sister Larson where a large gathering of both members and friends arrived to see "The Golden Age of Comedy" and "Alaska." The adults enjoyed the occasion every bit as much as the children, regaling themselves during the interval with hamburgers, ice cream and pop corn. The profits of the happy evening, almost R24, were added to the Chapel Building Fund.

Friday 27th saw a Halloween party arranged by the M.I.A., the hall being cleverly decorated for the evening with seasonal symbols designed by Sister Yvonne Le Roux. Witches on broomsticks and bats seemed ready to flit away at any moment. Members arrived in fancy dress which added to the festival air. Sandra Corbett and Colin Corbett were judged the best dressed pair. Young and old enjoyed the games, prizes and refreshments provided. Combining the auxiliaries to one evening per week appears a popular move since the attendance has increased, particularly at M.I.A. now under the direction of Sister June Storey, assisted by Sister Joyce Trotter and Sister Diane Larson.

On the afternoon of Sunday 29th October, the saints had the privilege of being present at a baptismal ceremony held in the picturesque garden at the home of Brother and Sister Taylor. It was a memorable occasion. To see Sister Yvonne Patricia Le Roux and little Rosemary Fisher enter the waters of baptism in that perfect setting one could indeed feel that the angels in Heaven rejoiced. We welcome these two sisters into membership of

the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and our prayers are that they may ever grow in knowledge and love of the Gospel.

Relief Society is busily preparing for a sale of work and cake on 9th December, with a target of £50. President Dora Storey and her family have just returned from a holiday in the Republic of South Africa.

We hear good news of Sister Ann Hoffman who is thoroughly enjoying her stay in the United Kingdom and sends greetings to all in the South African Mission.

SPRINGS

N. C. van Niekerk

ON behalf of the M.I.A. Brother Les Dicks started the Springs Branch Badminton Club. Play takes place on Monday nights and just recently this club was matched against the East Rand Badminton Club with a very marked degree of success. There is also a very promising prospect of playing in league matches in the near future.

We are proud to extend to Brother Tempel Futter our sincere wishes on being ordained an Elder.

We much regret the retirement of ex-President Ken Powrie and sincerely thank him for the many uplifting messages he brought to us during his term of office. To President Lionel Bibb we extend a warm word of congratulations on being appointed to such high office and assure the good President of our fullest co-operation in so far as it in our power lay. We also wish to let Brother Johan Brummer know that we much appreciated the very fine performance of his choir under his most accomplished baton. "Ten hoogste op rys gestel, broeder."

A sudden flood of theatrical talent in our branch has pushed its dramatic head in the public notice. Sister Helen MacMillan filled a singing part in the "Desert Song" recently with great success. Brothers Tempel and Ewalt Futter, Erold Jubber, Ken Armstrong and Val van Niekerk with Sister Muriel Dalldorf all have parts in the Christmas pantomine, "Alladin and his Enchanted Lamp," being produced by The Teenage Theatre with Miss Mona Dent directing. We have not the slightest doubt that these fine young ladies and gentlemen will radiate the true spirit of real Christianity. Carry on my fine friends, regardless.

At a recent Technical College Presentation Ceremony held in the Town Hall Sister June van Niekerk (among other pupils) was presented with her Prefect's Badge. Fine work, June, but it is good to remember Solomon's admonition, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger," dan hou jy altyd kop.

The annual Halloween party sponsored by the M.I.A. was held on the 25th October under the directorship of Brother Tony Storror. The games director was Brother Ken Armstrong. There was quite a variety of fantastic costumes, and the hall was decorated with a number of weird creatures which gave the impression of having escaped from their world of fantasy only to feel decidedly unhappy in this mundane world of hard reality. The party was rounded off with one or two shorts of horror to complete a programme of "entertainment." Thank You M.I.A.

The Relief Society sponsored a very entertaining braai-cum-tiekkie on the 28th October. An encouraging sum of money was raised on this occasion.

The Sunday School function this time held on the 10th November was another very successful film show projected by Mr. Lehman of Springs, and also raised a good purse. A local magician, Mr. Gobatti brought along a large bag of magic which had us all guessing . . . still guessing, I guess, Mr. Gobatti.

We are very happy to welcome into our midst the two Clifford sisters and Brother and Sister Rowe and their two sons who were all recently

baptised at Ramah.

We are much pleased at the growth of the Priesthood as evidenced by the advancement made by the following brethren: Bros. Tony Storror, Ewalt Futter, Johannes van Zyl and the two Botha brothers who have all been advanced to teachers.

At a special meeting of the Branch President and the Sunday School Superintendent it was agreed to start the Teachers Training Course as from 31st December.

At the monthly M.I.A. meeting it was unanimously agreed to hold all Fire-Side Chats on the same date in future so as to obtain smoother results.

We were happy to have with us during Sunday School service on the 11th, Brother Wagstaff who explained to us just how the enlistment movement within the Sunday School should work. We assure Brother Wagstaff of our very best endeavours.

WELKOM

Brother Cyril Bricknell

DURING the month we held a Halloween party which was enjoyed by friends and members. The M.I.A. held a variety show and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present. Special thanks go to President Robinson, Brother Parkins and Brother Gilbert for their fine songs which they sang. Welcome to Elder Barney. We of the Welkom Branch hope that he will have a pleasant stay in Welkom. Welcome to Mr. and Sister Watson who have moved here from Krugersdorp. Congratulations to Brother and Sister Nel on the arrival of a bonny daughter. We were pleased to see Brother and Sister Evans who came from Benoni. The Welkom Branch extends Christmas greetings to all of the members in the mission.

FROM OUR FILES (Concluded from page 331)

Ordinations

BULAWAYO

SOUTHEY, Trevor Jack Thomas—Priest

COPPERBELT

CALTEAUX, Norman James—Priest
HUNTINGTON, Robert Charles—Deacon
MC TAVISH, Creswell Snr.—Deacon
MC TAVISH, Creswell Jnr.—Deacon

DURBAN

ELLIOT, Harold Kinnear—Deacon
MILLER, Brian—Priest
NEL, William Daniel—Deacon
ROBERTSON, Andrew James—Deacon
WILKENS, John August—Deacon
WILSON, Donald Jonathan—Deacon

EAST RAND

JACOBS, Valentine Henry—Deacon
OLIVIER, Johannes Gerhardus Jacobus—Deacon

KRUGERSDORP

VAN BRANDWIJK, Johannes Jacobus—Elder

PORT ELIZABETH

VAN ROOYEN, Kevin Ernest—Deacon
VAN ROOYEN, Neville Louis—Deacon
VAN ROOYEN, Thomas Richard—Deacon.

PRETORIA

COMRIE, John James—Deacon
DU PREEZ, Herculaas Cornelis Johannes—Teacher
HUTTON, Ralph George Addison—Priest
PITTENDREIGH, Henry—Elder
TAIM, Olev—Elder

SALISBURY

BARSDORF, Michael—Deacon

SPRINGS

KEUNING, Marten—Deacon
MACMILLAN, Wilfred Kingsley—Priest

PRIMARY PAGE (Concluded from page 317)

"What a pity, John can't be here this week" and one of us says "But we're **here** Sister X." Or she says "Has anyone seen Leslie?" and looks all around, **he** says "here I am, right next to you" and then all of a sudden she pretends to find him and we all laugh!

Well, roll-call **does** sometimes take a little longer this way but it's such fun and we all love it.

I'm seven so I'll be getting baptised next year. Oh! there goes the bell for "wash hands" and I want to be one of the first in line so good-bye.

One of the Children

And Mary said,
my Soul doth
magnify the
Lord

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